

CLAIMS:

1. A method for allowing a first service to gain reference to a second service in a computer system comprising:
- enabling definition of a service connector interface in conjunction with said first service;
 - subsequently invoking said service connector interface in conjunction with said second service; and
 - gaining reference to said first service by said second service.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of enabling definition of said service connector interface comprises the step of:
- developing a computer program module adhering to said service connector interface in conjunction with said first service.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of subsequently invoking said service connector interface comprises the step of:
- instantiating said service connector at said second service.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of gaining reference to said first service by said second service comprises the steps of:
- retrieving a service instance at said service connector interface;
 - obtaining a service reference from said first service; and
 - returning said service reference obtained from said first service to said second service.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- specifying a particular version of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein a latest version of said first service is invoked if a particular version of said first service is not specified.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

identifying a particular instance of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein a latest instance of said first service is invoked if a particular instance of said first service is not specified.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said steps of subsequently invoking said service connector interface and gaining reference to said first service are carried out by an application program operative in conjunction with said second service.

10. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for allowing a first service to gain reference to a second service in a computer system comprising:

computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect enabling definition of a service connector interface in conjunction with said first service;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect subsequently invoking said service connector interface in conjunction with said second service; and

computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect gaining reference to said first service by said second service.

11. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect enabling

definition of said service connector interface
5 comprises:

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10 computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect allowing for
developing a computer program module adhering to said
service connector interface in conjunction with said
first service.

12. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein
said computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect subsequently
invoking said service connector interface comprises:

5 computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect instantiating
said service connector at said second service.

13. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein
said computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect gaining
reference to said first service by said second service
5 comprises:

computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect retrieving a
service instance at said service connector interface;

10 computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect obtaining a
service reference from said first service; and

15 computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect returning said
service reference obtained from said first service to
said second service.

14. The computer program product of claim 10 further
comprising:

5 computer readable program code devices configured
to cause said computer system to effect specifying a
particular version of said first service that said
second service desires to invoke.

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15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein a latest version of said first service is invoked if a particular version of said first service is not specified.

16. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising:

5 computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect identifying a particular instance of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

17. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein a latest instance of said first service is invoked if a particular instance of said first service is not specified.

18. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect subsequently invoking said service connector interface and said
5 computer readable program code devices configured to cause said computer system to effect gaining reference to said first service are carried out by an application program operative in conjunction with said second service.

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19. A method for allowing a first service to gain reference to a second service in a computer system comprising:

5 providing for enabling definition of a service connector interface in conjunction with said first service;

providing for subsequently invoking said service connector interface in conjunction with said second service; and

10 providing for gaining reference to said first service by said second service.

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20. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of providing for enabling definition of said service connector interface comprises the step of:

5 providing for developing a computer program module adhering to said service connector interface in conjunction with said first service.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of providing for subsequently invoking said service connector interface comprises the step of:

5 providing for instantiating said service connector at said second service.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of providing for gaining reference to said first service by said second service comprises the steps of:

5 providing for retrieving a service instance at said service connector interface;

providing for obtaining a service reference from said first service; and

10 providing for returning said service reference obtained from said first service to said second service.

23. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:

5 providing for specifying a particular version of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein a latest version of said first service is invoked if a particular version of said first service is not specified.

25. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:

5 providing for identifying a particular instance of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein a latest instance of said first service is invoked if a particular instance of said first service is not specified.

27. The method of claim 19 wherein said steps of providing for subsequently invoking said service connector interface and providing for gaining reference to said first service are carried out by an application program operative in conjunction with said second service.

28. A system for providing dynamic references between services in a computer system comprising:

means for enabling definition of a service connector interface in conjunction with said first service;

means for subsequently invoking said service connector interface in conjunction with said second service; and

means for gaining reference to said first service by said second service.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein said means for enabling definition of said service connector interface comprises:

means for developing a computer program module adhering to said service connector interface in conjunction with said first service.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein said means for subsequently invoking said service connector interface comprises the step of:

means for instantiating said service connector at said second service.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein said means for gaining reference to said first service by said second service comprises:

means for retrieving a service instance at said service connector interface;

means for obtaining a service reference from said first service; and

means for returning said service reference obtained from said first service to said second service.

32. The system of claim 28 further comprising:

means for specifying a particular version of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein a latest version of said first service is invoked if a particular version of said first service is not specified.

34. The system of claim 28 further comprising:

means for identifying a particular instance of said first service that said second service desires to invoke.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein a latest instance of said first service is invoked if a particular instance of said first service is not specified.

36. The system of claim 28 wherein said means for subsequently invoking said service connector interface and means for gaining reference to said first service are carried out by an application program operative in conjunction with said second service.